Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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NEW PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U. S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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Burma's Agricultural Production Reaches New High. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 3-60. 8 pp.

Thailand's Agricultural Production Setting Record. Foreign Agriculture Circular FATP 4-60. 7 pp.

1959 World Fats and Oils Production at Alltime High. Foreign Agriculture FFO 5-60. 3 pp.

U. S. 1959 Trade in Livestock, Meat, and Meat Products. Foreign Agriculture Circular FLM 1-60. 5 pp.

Prospects for Foreign Trade in Food and Feed Grains, Dry Peas, Dry Beans, Seeds, Hops. 35 pp.

BRAZIL'S FLUE-CURED TOBACCO CROP UP SHARPLY

Brazil's 1959-60 crop of flue-cured tobacco is now forecast at about 100 million pounds. This is an 18-percent increase over the 1958-59 crop of 85 million pounds. Most Brazilian flue-cured tobacco is used by domestic manufacturers. Exports have not been large. However, with increasing emphasis on flue-cured production, crops in the near future will probably be large enough to permit an increase in exports.

U. K. CIGARETTE EXPORTS CONTINUE DOWNWARD

Cigarette exports from the United Kingdom continued downward in 1959. Shipments in the first 9 months of the year totaled 22.4 million pounds, down 18 percent from January-September 1958. Commonwealth countries took 71 percent of the 9-month exports, compared with 75 percent in January-September 1958.

Exports to Singapore and the Federation of Malaya dropped 2.6 million pounds but still accounted for 40 percent of the total. Other principal markets included Hong Kong, West Germany, France, Sudan, and the Arabian States. Takings of cigarettes by New Zealand and Ghana have dropped sharply since 1957.

U. S. CIGARETTE EXPORTS INCREASE IN 1959

The United States exported 19.6 billion cigarettes in 1959--8 percent more than the 18.1 billion shipped in 1958 (see table on following page).

Exports in 1959 were higher than in any year since 1948, when exports totaled 25.2 billion--partially due to exports of 11.6 billion pieces to the Philippines. The value of U.S. cigarette exports in 1959 ($84.4 million) was 10 percent above 1958 ($76.6 million).

Morocco, with a 13.5-percent increase in cigarette purchases from the United States, replaced Venezuela as the leading market for U. S. cigarettes. Exports to Venezuela dropped 10 percent.

Among the important markets that increased their taking were Hong Kong, the Netherlands Antilles, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Italy, Ecuador, Denmark, the Republic of Panama, Switzerland, Peru, and Lebanon. Exports were also up sharply to Spain, Australia, Surinam, the Federation of Malaya, Bahrein, and Gibraltar. In addition to the decline in purchases by Venezuela, there were reductions in shipments to France, Belgium, Singapore, Sweden, and Cuba.

U. S. cigarette exports tend to be greater to areas where there are a number of U. S. military personnel, oil or mining industry employees, or tourists.

CIGARETTES: U. S. exports, by country of destination, annual 1957-59

Destination	1957	1958	1959	Percent change 1959 over 1958
	Million pieces	Million pieces	Million pieces	Percent
Morocco	1,942	2,107	2,391	+13.5
Venezuela	2,336	2,507	2,260	-9.9
Hong Kong	1,224	1,128	1,364	+20.9
France	1,321	1,305	1,195	-8.4
Belgium	644	1,030	884	-14.2
Netherlands Antilles	346	736	834	+13.3
Singapore	1/ 931	771	674	-12.6
Kuwait	422	514	628	+22.2
Netherlands	438	450	534	+18.7
Sweden	625	581	528	-9.1
Spain	72	11	515	---
Italy	424	470	475	+1.1
Ecuador	490	403	472	+17.1
Cuba	429	453	433	-4.4
Denmark	444	415	429	+3.4
West Germany	480	460	423	-8.0
Switzerland	241	269	311	+15.6
Panama, Republic of	526	257	304	+18.3
Canada	328	312	301	-3.5
Peru	216	261	301	+15.3
Colombia	156	350	260	-25.7
Malayan Federation	--	136	256	+88.2
Others	2,958	3,141	3,804	+21.1
Total	16,993	18,067	19,576	+8.4

1/ Includes shipments to Malayan Federation.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO CROP LARGER IN CUBA

Cuba's 1959-60 crop of flue-cured tobacco is forecast at about 4.6 million pounds--up 15 percent from the 4.0 million pounds harvested last year.

The increase reflects the efforts of the new "Instituto Nacional de Reforma Agraria" to make Cuba self-sufficient in light cigarette tobaccos. Production of Burley tobacco, however, is expected to amount to only 1.5 million pounds, compared with 1.9 million a year ago.

ITALY'S 1959 NUT PRODUCTION ESTIMATES REVISED

Almonds.--The 1959 harvest is now estimated by the Foreign Agricultural Service at 52,000 short tons, a 5,000-ton reduction from an earlier forecast. Since a sizable part of the crop is reportedly still being held by growers, the actual size of the harvest is not yet certain. Trade estimates range between 50,000 and 60,000 short tons.

This year's crop plus an estimated carryover of 6,000 tons brought the total supply to 58,000 tons. Exports during 1959-60 are expected to range between 28,000 and 33,000 tons. However, shipments of kernels through December 1959 amounted to only 19,197 tons, somewhat less than most exporters expected. West Germany has been the major market, taking about 8,600 tons. Assuming exports of 30,000 tons, ending stocks on August 31, 1960, would be around 21,000 short tons.

Export prices, f.o.b. Italy, for Bari and P.G. were reported at 40.4 and 40.1 cents per pound, respectively, in early February. Future price developments are dependent on the outlook this spring for the 1960 crop, which has already started blooming.

Filberts.--This year's harvest was a near-record 47,000 short tons. Carryover stocks from the 1958 crop were reported at 5,500 tons for a total supply of 52,500 tons.

The Italian trade expects filbert exports to reach about 38,000 tons during the 1959-60 season. Official statistics on exports this season are not yet available. However, the Italian trade estimates that 50 to 55 percent of the 1959 supply had moved into export channels or domestic markets by the end of January 1960. Shelled filbert prices have been firm; they were reported at 43.2 cents per pound (early February), well above a year earlier. Prices for unshelled nuts in early February were reported at 16.6 cents per pound, about the same as in 1959.

Walnuts.--The Italian commercial harvest in 1959 was estimated at 22,000 short tons, down 6,500 tons from an earlier forecast. This year's Sorrento crop is estimated at 18,000 tons.

Italian trade sources are estimating 1959-60 exports at 15,000 tons. No 1959-60 official export statistics are yet available, but the trade estimates shipments through December 1959 as follows: West Germany--6,600 tons, United Kingdom--3,300 tons, and others 2,200 tons, for a total of 12,100 tons. Stocks on hand at that time were estimated at 6,600 tons of which about half would be used for crushing. Shelled walnuts are said to be scarce, as the small Piedmont harvest was reportedly shipped direct to Germany unshelled. Shelled prices were reported, c.i.f. New York, as follows: Sorrentos, light halves--87.1 cents per pound; Piedmonts, light halves--94.8 cents; light pieces--83.5 cents; and light amber pieces--60.3 cents. Sorrentos unshelled were reported at 28.0 cents per pound, f.o.b. Italy, in early February.

SPAIN HAS LARGER PACK OF QUEEN OLIVES

Spain's 1959-60 pack of exportable table olives is still estimated at 63,000 short tons, in comparison with 61,000 tons for 1958-59. However, the estimate of the Queen (Gordal) crop, which is very large this season, has been revised upward to 29,000 tons. Production of Manzanillas is now estimated at 22,000 tons and other olives at 12,000 tons.

Exports for the 1959-60 season are still forecast at approximately 48,000 tons. As of January 15, 1960 exports plus export sales awaiting shipment amounted to 11,900 tons.

Quality is not as good as originally thought. Infestation by dacus fly, which the Spanish trade at first estimated at only 10 percent, is now considered to be 25 to 30 percent.

The current Spanish table olive season began November 21, 1959, and will end November 20, 1960. In previous years, the Spanish Government established minimum export prices along with export regulations at the outset of the export season. However, no minimum export prices have been set this season. Instead, when an exporter applies to the Ministry of Commerce for an export permit his prices are subject to approval by the Ministry. To guide the Ministry, exporters were asked to submit suggested export prices at the beginning of the season; these are shown below together with actual export prices:

Type of olives	Suggested 1959-60 prices	Representative market prices		
		1958-59 season	End Nov. 1959	Mid-Jan. 1960
	Cents per lb.	Cents per lb.	Cents per lb.	Cents per lb.
Stuffed Queens	10.7	13.6	9.8	8.8
1st Class Queens, whole	6.8	9.1	6.8	6.4
2nd Class Queens, whole	5.9	8.2	5.9	5.4
Stuffed Manzanillas	11.3	12.2	10.9	10.2

Some Spanish traders think that as the season progresses there will be some strengthening of prices from the low January levels. They base their opinion on the belief that (1) the quantity of olives of exportable quality is less than commonly estimated, and (2) many firms have been forced to sell because of the credit restrictions which accompanied the stabilization program.

U. S. import statistics for the 12 months ending November 1959 show imports of 50,860 short tons of table olives from Spain.

PORTUGAL'S 1959 ALMOND EXPORTS SLOW

Portugal's almond market is reported weak, with large stocks still in the hands of growers. Trade sources estimate that 5,200 tons from the September 1959 supply of 6,000 tons remained unsold in mid-January.

ALMONDS: Portugal, supply and distribution, annual 1958 and forecast 1959, shell basis

Item	Year beginning September 1	
	1958	1959
	Short tons	Short tons
Beginning stocks, September 1	1,650	1,200
Production	2,200	4,800
Total supply	3,850	6,000
Exports	2,400	2,750
Other disappearance	250	250
Ending stocks, August 31	1,200	3,000
Total distribution	3,850	6,000

The 1959 crop totaled 4,800 tons (3,600 tons in southern Algarve and 1,200 tons in the Douro Valley of the North). It was almost double the short 1958 harvest, but 300 tons less than the 5,100 ton 1957 crop.

During the 3-month period September 1 to November 31, 1959, only 375 tons shelled and 381 tons unshelled were exported. Shelled shipments in 1958 and 1957 totaled 2,179 tons and 2,991 tons, respectively. Unshelled shipments amounted to 278 tons in 1958 and 609 tons in 1957.

ALMONDS, SHELLED: Portugal, exports by destination, annual 1957 and 1958

Destination	Year beginning September 1	
	1957	1958
	Short tons	Short tons
United States	11	22
Belgium-Luxembourg	786	414
Canada	80	11
Denmark	52	41
France	20	603
Germany, West	350	104
Netherlands	163	123
New Zealand	61	58
Norway	29	42
Sweden	312	261
Union of South Africa	55	54
United Kingdom	944	372
Other	128	74
Total	2,991	2,179

ISRAEL LIKES FLORIDA ORANGE JUICE

Although citrus is Israel's major export crop, Israel has been importing Florida orange juice for the domestic market. From 1957 through 1959 Florida sold Israel over 160,000 gallons of hot pack orange juice--about 50,000 gallons a year.

EXPANSION PLANS ANNOUNCED FOR YUGOSLAV COMMERCIAL TREE NUT PRODUCTION

Latest plans for expansion of tree nut production in Yugoslavia call for planting about 4,000 acres to commercial walnut and filbert orchards by 1962. The official estimate of producing walnut trees in 1959 was 2,350,000, an increase of 100,000 over 1958. The Yugoslav Agricultural Bank is now granting investment loans to state and cooperative farms able to plant an orchard properly and use modern cultivation practices.

At present there are very few commercial walnut orchards in Yugoslavia. Almost every farmer has a few trees that supply his household needs, and he occasionally sells surplus production.

Yugoslavia's 1959 commercial walnut production is estimated at 4,300 short tons, a little less than 10 percent of total production. Commercial production in 1958 was estimated at 4,700 tons. Exports for 1959-60 are expected to reach only 1,500 tons, unshelled equivalent, a 700-ton decrease from 1958-59. Despite a larger total crop, the amount of walnuts available for export is much less this season, as the price paid growers by the agricultural cooperatives was considerably less than the growers were able to get on the free domestic market. Austria is usually the chief foreign market for Yugoslav walnuts.

Most exports from the 1959 harvest were made in November and December. During this period, kernel prices ranged from 41.7 to 43.1 cents per pound, f.o.b. Yugoslav border. In January 1960, offers of 54.4 cents were made but unfilled, as stocks of trading firms were reported very low.

In October 1959, unshelled walnuts were reported to be selling at 13.6 to 15.9 cents per pound, f.o.b. Yugoslav border, to Eastern Europe and 11.3 to 12.7 cents per pound to Western Europe.

U.S. TUNG OIL IMPORTS DROP

U.S. imports of tung oil in calendar year 1959 declined to 11,658 short tons, 18 percent below imports in 1958. Because of reduced availabilities from Argentina, and Paraguay, imports from all sources except the Union of South Africa were smaller than in 1958 and were below the import quota of 13,000 tons for the marketing year beginning November 1. Under quota provisions, which are in force through October 31, 1960, imports during each quota year (November-October) are limited to 11,050 short tons from Argentina, 1,482 tons from Paraguay, and 468 tons from other countries.

TUNG OIL: U. S. imports by country of origin, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-59

Origin	Average 1935-39	Average 1950-54	1955	1956	1957	1958 1/	1959 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
South America:							
Argentina	---	10,871	8,860	13,556	11,228	12,245	9,886
Brazil	1	376	277	127	155	227	155
Paraguay	---	1,279	1,102	1,858	3,016	1,491	1,304
Total	1	12,526	10,239	15,541	14,399	13,963	11,345
Africa:							
British East Africa	---	89	63	---	21	---	---
Rhodesia and Nyasaland	---	34	225	112	37	184	56
Other	---	23	---	---	128	29	2/ 257
Total	---	146	288	112	186	213	313
Asia:							
China	56,609	9,986	---	---	---	---	---
Hong Kong	4,725	560	---	---	---	---	---
Other	134	28	---	---	---	---	---
Total	61,468	10,574	---	---	---	---	---
Others	126	1	---	---	---	---	---
Grand total	61,595	23,247	10,527	15,653	14,585	14,176	11,658

1/ Preliminary. 2/ All from the Union of South Africa.

Compiled from official records of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

NYASALAND TUNG OIL OUTPUT IN 1959 SETS RECORD

Nyasaland's 1959 tung nut crop yielded a record 1,425 short tons of tung oil, an increase of 70 percent from 1958 and 5 percent above the previous high, in 1957. Early in 1959 world tung oil prices rose sharply. This led tung growers to renew efforts to care for trees and to harvest all the nuts; this accounts for the record oil outturn. Because of depressed prices in the latter half of 1957 and throughout 1958, many producers neglected trees and, in some cases removed trees to plant coffee or tea; the outturn of oil in 1958 was therefore small.

About 1,000 tons of the 1959 crop is expected to be marketed in Europe and the Union of South Africa (the 1959 oil output became available for export around November 1, 1959). The remaining exportable oil will be shipped to the United States under the U. S. import quota for countries other than Argentina and Paraguay. This quota totals 468 tons for the marketing year beginning November 1, of which not more than 117 tons may be imported during the first quarter of the marketing year.

U.S. SESAME SEED IMPORTS DECLINE IN 1959

The United States imported 6,679 short tons of sesame seed in 1959, a decline of about 10 percent from the tonnage imported each of the 2 previous years, but slightly more than the volume imported in 1956. Central America again was the major supplier, accounting for roughly 95 percent of the total, with Nicaragua again being the largest single country of origin. Brazil again entered the U.S. market with a record volume for that country after 2 years of not shipping sesame seed to the United States. Imports from Africa, which have dropped off sharply in the last 2 years, were less than one-half those of 1958 and were only 8 percent of the quantity in 1957.

In most postwar years the United States has imported less than one-fourth the average volume of 1935-39. Also, since the advent of the Communist regime in Mainland China, the origin of the major share of U.S. imports has shifted from Asia to Central America.

SESAME SEED: U. S. imports by country of origin, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-59

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	Average 1950-54	1955	1956	1957	1958 1/	1959 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
North America:							
El Salvador	16	1,231	2,125	2,278	1,938	2,406	1,853
Guatemala	4	269	138	69	38	223	1
Nicaragua	97	3,782	2,773	3,217	3,832	4,416	4,415
Other	141	30	107	2	172	3	8
Total	258	5,312	5,143	5,566	5,980	7,048	6,277
South America:							
Brazil	49	3	254	219	---	---	319
Other	19	---	8	38	---	38	---
Total	68	3	262	257	---	38	319
Europe	7	28	25	---	---	8	---
Africa:							
Egypt	209	19	382	239	143	62	4
Other	1	64	17	16	2/ 696	113	59
Total	210	83	399	255	839	175	63
Asia:							
China, Mainland	26,501	3/1,368	---	---	---	---	---
Hong Kong	638	10	---	---	---	---	---
India	484	116	89	421	---	---	---
Turkey	16	34	---	---	---	---	---
Other	1,031	262	54	70	4/ 638	5/ 100	20
Total	28,670	1,790	143	491	638	100	20
Grand total	29,213	7,216	5,972	6,569	7,457	7,369	6,679

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Ethiopia — 454; Sudan — 155; Nigeria — 87. 3/ Five year average; imports were made only in 1950 and 1951. 4/ Lebanon — 494; Syria — 123; Malaya — 21. 5/ Lebanon — 72; Syria — 18; Japan — 10.

Compiled from official records of the Department of Commerce.

BURMA TO BOOST RICE EXPORTS

Exports of milled rice from Burma in 1960 are forecast at 2 million long tons (44.8 million cwt. of 100 pounds). Exports in 1959 were 1,673,000 tons (37.5 million cwt.) of milled rice, including brokens, and 111,242 tons (2.5 million cwt.) of bran. The stock carryover at the end of 1959 was 521,000 tons (11.67 million cwt.), 25 percent lower than on January 1, 1959.

Burma's rice crop in 1959-60 is substantially larger than the previous postwar record of 1958-59. Weather was again favorable for production.

From 100,000 to 200,000 acres more were planted in rice, and yields per acre were even higher than the very good yields of 1958-59. In addition to good weather, the gains were due to increased land reclamation, construction of dams, drainage, and irrigation channels, increased distribution of improved seed and fertilizer, and introduction of scientific techniques by the government.

Sales totaling 1,616,000 tons (36.2 million cwt.) of rice from the current crop were successfully negotiated by January 15. The leading buyers in order of quantity are Indonesia, India, Ceylon, Pakistan, Yugoslavia, Mauritius, the Ryukyus, Japan, and Poland. Sales to Malaya and Singapore were not yet finalized.

Burma has not published the 1960 export price of rice. Unofficial sources indicate the State Agricultural Marketing Board has lowered its export price for the basic quality, Ngasein Small Mills Special, 42 percent broken, to £32 per long ton ($4.00 per cwt.) f.o.b. as against £34 ($4.25) in 1959.

To induce larger purchases, the SAMB has adopted a sliding-scale price policy in its negotiations with other governments. The scale is as follows (all sales f.o.b.): for purchases up to 100,000 long tons, £ 32 10 shillings per ton ($4.06 per cwt.); up to 200,000 tons £ 32/5 ($4.03); up to 300,000 tons, £ 32 ($4.00); up to 400,000 tons, £ 31/15 ($3.97); up to 500,000 tons £ 31/10 ($3.93); and for every additional 100,000 tons, a drop of 5 shillings per ton (3 cents per cwt.) is allowed.

Indonesia purchased 500,000 tons at £ 31.5 per ton ($3.93 per cwt.) f.o.b. At the end of January, Pakistan had contracted to purchase 175,000 tons (3.9 million cwt.) and was given an option to purchase an additional 90,000 tons (2 million cwt.) before the end of February, if it desires to buy at the price of £ 32 per ton ($4.00 per cwt.)

TANGANYIKA PLANS COCOA EXPANSION

Cocoa expansion is planned for an estate in Tanganyika situated in the foothills of the Usumbara Mountains. The issued share capital of the estate is to be increased by £ 500,000 (U.S. $1,400,000) for this purpose. Further development will be financed by loans up to a total of £ 200,000 (U.S. $560,000).

The estate at present consists of about 900 acres planted in cocoa and 200 acres in coffee, with kapok interplanted. It is planned to expand the cocoa acreage progressively over the next 10 years to 4,750 acres.

BRITAIN TO IMPORT MORE U.S. ALASKA PEAS

U.K. traders expect to import 30,000 long tons (672,000 bags of 100 pounds each) of U.S. Alaska peas in the marketing year ending July 31, 1960. The United States exported 651,000 bags of Alaskas to Britain last year; the previous high was 425,000 bags in 1956-57.

Of the expected British imports, 60 percent (408,000 bags) had left the United States by last December 31, compared with 374,000 in the corresponding period of 1958, and 27,000 bags in 1957.

In addition to Alaska peas, the United Kingdom imported 19,000 bags of yellow peas and 23,000 bags of seed in the 5 months ending December 31, or double the amount in the comparable period of 1958 and about as much as the 12-month total in 1958-59.

ARGENTINE WHEAT EXPORTS DOWN, CORN UP, IN JULY-DECEMBER 1959

Argentine wheat exports have been falling off for several weeks, as old-crop supplies have dwindled and the new crop has been moving slowly to export points. December 1959 exports dropped to the lowest monthly level since February 1958, when they were 52,000 metric tons. Exports during the first half (July-December) of 1959-60 were 854,000 metric tons, down more than 30 percent from the comparable period in 1958.

In contrast, corn exports during July-December 1959 rose to 1.7 million metric tons, up more than 48 percent from the first half of 1958-59. The increase showed up in all the major markets, but especially in exports to Italy, which increased more than 100 percent and accounted for more than 37 percent of Argentina's total corn exports in the 6-month period.

Exports of other grains (rye, oats, barley, and sorghums) during the first half of 1959-60 varied somewhat from the previous season. Barley exports increased, while exports of rye and oats were down. Sorghums exports during July-December 1959 were 93,000 metric tons, whereas none were reported during the comparable period in 1958.

GRAIN: Argentine exports, July-December 1958 and July-December 1959

Country of destination	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Sorghums 1/	Total
	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons	Metric tons
July-December 1958:							
United States	--	--	4,532	--	--	--	4,532
Brazil	675,882	--	--	6,484	2,000	--	684,366
Paraguay	28,458	--	--	--	--	--	28,458
Peru	61,699	--	--	--	--	--	61,699
Austria	10,713	--	7,745	--	--	--	18,458
Belgium-Luxembourg	21,338	4,970	116,648	6,092	1,000	--	150,048
Czechoslovakia	--	--	950	1,500	--	--	2,450
Denmark	4,100	2,250	5,675	7,636	--	--	19,661
France	9,634	--	--	--	--	--	9,634
West Germany	150,841	7,723	80,300	46,520	56,882	--	342,266
Italy	--	6,272	298,782	7,825	492	--	313,371
Netherlands	52,516	13,075	310,999	30,078	7,817	--	414,485
Norway	4,050	--	2,028	--	--	--	6,078
Poland	--	--	3,960	--	--	--	3,960
Rumania	--	7,771	6,200	1,150	--	--	15,121
Sweden	800	6,905	3,650	1,690	--	--	13,045
Switzerland	--	500	10,816	420	--	--	11,736
United Kingdom	226,500	1,330	163,697	12,300	--	--	403,827
Japan	--	--	136,471	--	--	--	136,471
North Africa	--	--	1,605	--	--	--	1,605
South Africa	8,168	--	--	--	--	--	8,168
Total	1,254,699	50,796	1,154,058	121,695	68,191	1/	2,649,439
July-December 1959:							
United States	--	--	1,657	--	--	--	1,657
Canada	--	--	--	--	--	75	75
Brazil	474,068	--	--	2,454	6,143	--	482,665
Chile	50,000	--	--	--	--	--	50,000
Paraguay	39,508	--	--	--	--	--	39,508
Peru	47,325	--	2,210	--	--	--	49,535
Uruguay	10,870	500	840	2,001	7,985	--	22,196
Austria	--	6,629	3,135	--	--	150	9,914
Belgium-Luxembourg	2,825	1,172	188,021	1,000	--	18,642	211,660
Denmark	--	200	1,650	1,000	--	3,740	6,590
France	14,760	--	2,890	--	--	--	17,650
West Germany	96,485	15,123	114,691	4,140	77,594	6,700	314,733
Italy	22,472	1,098	637,572	7,840	8,638	2,268	679,888
Netherlands	24,670	3,358	344,754	--	2,358	53,599	428,739
Sweden	--	1,200	3,650	--	--	235	5,085
Switzerland	1,000	--	13,146	--	--	--	14,146
United Kingdom	51,334	800	217,701	--	--	8,056	277,891
Japan	--	--	181,793	--	--	--	181,793
Lebanon	19,015	--	--	--	1,350	--	20,365
Total	854,332	30,080	1,713,710	18,435	104,068	93,465	2,814,090

1/ Not available prior to September 1959.

Source: El Cerealista.

SOUTH AFRICAN PINEAPPLE PRICES WEAK

South African canners are paying pineapple growers only $11 to $14 per ton. Five years ago, prices ranged from $42 to $67. Some growers are shifting to sugarcane and grain sorghums, while a few expect prices to improve and are continuing to plant pineapple. The value of fresh pineapple exports in 1958 was $528,000 and canned pineapple $9,065,000.

CUBAN RICE ARRIVALS DROP

Rice arrivals into Cuba in the first half (July-December) of the 1959-60 rice quota year totaled 1,782,000 bags (100 pounds each) of milled rice and 25,000 bags of seed rice. During the same period of 1958, milled rice imports came to 2,537,000 cwt., and 75,000 bags of seed were imported. All imports were from the United States.

On the basis of an estimated production of 5,500,000 bags of rough rice, and with per capita consumption at the 1958-59 level, 1959-60 imports required in addition to the low-duty quota from the United States are tentatively set forth below. A shortage of dollar exchange may make it difficult to import the additional rice needed.

RICE (milled): Cuban estimated supply and distribution, rice quota year, July-June 1959-60

Item	1,000 bags	Item	1,000 bags
Stocks, July 1, 1959	1,213	Consumption at 121 pounds per capita	7,865
Production 1959-60	3,600	Stocks, June 30, 1960	246
Authorized low-duty imports from United States to date	3,298	Total distribution	8,111
Total supplies	8,111	Additional imports required to maintain stocks of 1 million cwt.	754

The price of all rice, both imported and locally grown, is still maintained at rather high levels. "Tio Ben" is quoted wholesale at 22 cents per pound, and is retailed in Habana at 25 cents per pound.

Though acreage of the main (fall) crop of 1959-60 increased to 320,000 acres from 271,000 acres in 1958-59 (see <u>Foreign Crops and Markets</u>, January 25, 1960) yields per acre were the lowest in several years. If the average yield was around 1,720 pounds of rough rice per acre, as crop conditions indicate, about 5,500,000 bags were harvested, compared with 4,750,000 bags in 1958-59. The quality of the new crop is reported to be inferior to that in recent years.

SOUTH AFRICA INCREASES MINIMUM PRODUCER PRICE FOR KAFFIRCORN

The South African Government's Mealie Industry Control Board has fixed 32 shillings per 200-pound bag ($1.25 per bushel) for the best grades as the guaranteed minimum producer price for kaffircorn (one of the grain sorghums) for the 1959-60 (May-April) marketing season. This is an increase of 3 shillings per bag (12 cents per bushel) over the 1958-59 price.

One of the purposes of the increase is to encourage South African farmers to expand kaffircorn production. This grain has been a commercial farm crop in some areas but in others it is only a "catch" crop, that is, it is planted only if weather conditions do not permit plantings of corn or some other more profitable grain.

Kaffircorn is harvested in the Union of South Africa in March and April. The estimated 1959-60 production is only about 7,857,000 bushels, compared with 9,182,000 bushels in 1958-59. Since the end-of-year stocks are expected to decline about 157,000 bushels, total 1960-61 supplies will be about 1,482,000 bushels less than the quantity available in 1959-60.

Kaffircorn is used locally mainly for breakfast and infant foods and for brewing kaffirbeer. Domestic consumption is relatively constant, although in 1960-61 it is expected to decline about half a million bushels from the 1959-60 consumption of 6,754,000 bushels. Exports are expected to decline about 800,000 bushels from 2,586,000 bushels in 1959-60.

The Union of South Africa has been a competitor of the United States in the world's kaffircorn export markets, particularly the U. K. market.

BELGIUM-LUXEMBOURG'S RICE IMPORTS FROM COMMUNIST BLOC RISE SHARPLY

Rice imports into Belgium-Luxembourg from the Communist Bloc increased sharply in January-October 1959. Imports of 609,000 cwt. (100 pounds) from Communist China, North Korea, Hungary, and Bulgaria came to 43 percent of total imports. In the same months of 1958, around 14 percent originated in the "Bloc" countries; prior to 1958 no rice came from there.

Total rice imports in January-October 1959 were 1,419,000 cwt., compared with 940,000 cwt. in the same months of 1958. Though imports from the United States also increased sharply, they were substantially less than in some previous years. Imports of U.S. rice in the first 10 months of 1959 comprised 24 percent of total imports. This made the United States the second largest country of origin, next to Communist China.

Slightly over half of the January-October imports were broken rice from the following countries (1,000 bags): Communist China, 314; Burma, 224; United States, 153; Argentina, 27; Thailand, 14; other countries, 3, total, 735. (Continued on following page)

Imports of milled rice, completely polished, at 99,000 cwt. were from the United States (37,000, Hungary (31,000), Italy (19,000); Argentina (11,000), and other countries (1,000).

Imports classified as "other" totaled 585,000 bags and were from the following sources, (1,000 cwt.): Communist China, 165; United States, 151; North Korea, 87; Thailand, 45; Bulgaria, 11; and other countries, 126.

RICE: Imports into Belgium and Luxembourg, by country of origin January-October 1959, with comparisons

Country of origin	Average 1951-55	1956	1957	1958	January-October	
					1958	1959
	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Argentina	82	284	151	50	28	38
Bulgaria	1/	1/	1/	28	17	11
Burma	201	351	477	370	355	224
Communist China	1/	1/	1/	121	58	480
Egypt	2/	0	0	77	75	1/
Hungary	1/	1/	1/	44	36	31
Italy	81	0	3	2/	2/	19
North Korea	1/	1/	1/	1/	1/	87
North Vietnam	1/	1/	1/	22	22	1/
Thailand	153	14	178	206	205	59
United States	164	982	521	108	66	341
Other countries	148	190	66	118	78	129
Total	829	1,821	1,396	1,144	940	1,419

1/ If any, included in "other countries". 2/ Less than 500 cwt.

Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce Exterieur.

U.S. IMPORTS OF PALM OIL IN 1959 DOWN SHARPLY; PALM KERNEL OIL IMPORTS LARGEST SINCE 1937

U. S. imports of palm oil in 1959 declined sharply from 1958, but imports of palm kernel oil were the largest in 22 years.

Palm oil imports at 15,658 tons were one-fourth less than in the previous year and roughly one-half the 1950-54 average. Most of the decline was in takings from the Belgian Congo, which normally supplies 90 to 95 percent of the total.

The 35,477 tons of palm kernel oil imported in 1959 was over one-third more than the 1958 imports and was the largest quantity brought into the United States since the 70,000 tons imported in 1937.

While takings of palm kernel oil from the Belgian Congo (also the major source of palm oil) increased slightly, the sharpest increase was in imports from the Netherlands, which purchases palm kernels for crushing and exports palm kernel oil.

PALM OIL AND PALM KERNEL OIL: United States imports by country of origin, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-59

Country of origin	Average 1935-39	Average 1950-54	1955	1956	1957	1958 1/	1959 1/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
PALM OIL							
Canada	1,403	1	---	2	1	1	1
Mexico	---	---	---	92	---	---	---
Belgium-Luxembourg	243	---	---	38	88	190	276
Netherlands	1,212	194	---	---	---	---	4
United Kingdom	304	---	780	---	---	4	12
Belgian Congo	20,111	21,134	17,426	13,243	9,097	19,676	14,669
French Africa	521	17	---	---	---	---	---
Liberia	---	141	---	---	---	---	---
Nigeria	16,038	1,943	552	---	---	---	---
Portuguese Africa	116	198	---	---	---	---	---
Indonesia	119,063	7,115	2,522	738	132	1,634	695
Malaya	1,302	87	840	17	1	1	1
Others	428	240	---	---	1	---	---
Total	160,741	31,070	22,120	14,130	9,320	21,506	15,658
PALM KERNEL OIL 2/							
Belgium-Luxembourg	34	93	331	---	---	15	---
Denmark	3,638	---	---	19	---	---	---
Germany, West	3/ 9,762	498	---	---	---	---	---
Netherlands	6,213	2,917	3,839	919	388	1,459	8,850
United Kingdom	2,627	6,230	2,705	309	2,247	1,721	2,915
Belgian Congo	---	3,541	16,034	19,095	22,265	22,453	23,498
Australia	---	354	---	---	---	---	---
Others	13	232	---	---	---	4/ 5	214
Total	22,287	13,865	22,909	20,342	24,900	25,653	35,477

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Crude and refined combined as such. 3/ Total Germany.
4/ From Japan.

Compiled from official records of the U. S. Department of Commerce.

WINTER WHEAT PROSPECTS GENERALLY GOOD IN EUROPE AND ASIA

Weather was generally favorable for seeding winter wheat throughout Europe and Asia. Conditions continued good and crop development was promising up to mid-February. Since that time, however, cold weather has caused some concern in a number of European countries where snowcover was inadequate. No serious damage has been reported to date.

Available information on conditions in the principal producing countries is given below. This is a comprehensive coverage for Western European countries, since those listed below accounted for almost 90 percent of total production in Western Europe in 1959.

Winter wheat acreage is up slightly in France. The outlook has been good but sharp frosts in mid-February when protective snowcover was lacking could mean damage to the crop.

Winterkill in West Germany has been negligible. Acreage is above last year's despite drought during seeding time. Condition on December 1, however, was less favorable than the good condition a year earlier, which led to a record outturn.

No estimate of Italy's wheat acreage has been released. It is expected to be smaller than last year since the government is encouraging a switch from wheat to livestock. The condition of winter wheat is described as mainly satisfactory though in certain sections it is unsatisfactory. If future growing conditions are normal, a larger outturn than last year may be expected since a larger proportion of the acreage is seeded to higher-yielding varieties.

The outlook is excellent in Spain. Weather favored seeding throughout most of the country and condition at the beginning of January was much better than in January 1959.

The United Kingdom's winter wheat acreage is considerably larger than the small area sown in 1958. The increase in acreage is surprising in view of the difficulties encountered in cultivating the hard soil following the prolonged summer drought. The condition of the acreage is generally satisfactory though waterlogging is reported from some parts.

In Greece, prospects are very good. The wheat acreage is estimated to be about 4 percent smaller than the large acreage a year ago.

Little information is available in Eastern Europe except for Yugoslavia. In that country, wheat acreage is about the same as last year, but the area seeded to high-yielding varieties is about $2\frac{1}{2}$ times that of a year ago. Recent weather has caused some concern that winter damage may be substantial.

India's wheat harvest, which begins in March, is expected to set a new record. Seeding took place under very favorable conditions and an organized official campaign to help farmers get improved seed and the right kind of fertilizer contributed to the promising outlook. Weather conditions have been favorable in most areas except in some Northwest districts where drought is lowering crop prospects.

A slightly larger wheat harvest is expected in Egypt in May. Acreage is up about 2 percent largely because of continued enforcement of minimum wheat acreage controls. Conditions favored seeding in Morocco except in the North where rains were excessive.

NETHERLANDS COTTON CONSUMPTION AND IMPORTS UP

Cotton consumption of 90,000 bales (500 pounds gross) by the Netherlands in the first 3 months (August-October) of this season was 7 percent above the 84,000 bales used in August-October 1958. Consumption during the full 1959-60 season is expected to be somewhat higher than the 327,000 bales used in 1958-59. Mill orderbooks are well filled, reflecting stronger domestic and export demand for cotton goods.

Sales of cotton fabrics have increased on both domestic and export markets, while sales of synthetics have declined. During the first half of calendar year 1959, exports of cotton goods from the Netherlands reached 16,000 metric tons, up 13 percent from exports of 14,000 tons in the first 6 months of 1958. In this same period, rayon exports declined about 14 percent--from 2,711 tons to 2,323 tons.

Preliminary statistics show cotton imports of 108,000 bales into the Netherlands during August-November of this season--an increase of 20 percent from imports of 90,000 bales in the same period a year earlier. Quantities imported from principal sources during August-November 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 46,000 bales (27,000); Belgian Congo 11,000 (6,000); United States 10,000 (13,000); Peru 8,000 (11,000); Brazil 8,000 (1,000); Sudan 6,000 (2,000); Nicaragua 4,000 (14,000); and Egypt 2,000 (2,000).

Total imports during the current season should be moderately higher than the 318,000 bales imported in 1958-59, due to the rising rate of consumption. Also, some rebuilding of stocks is likely. Beginning stocks on August 1, 1959, were 82,000 bales--down 11 percent from 92,000 bales held a year earlier.

Mill purchases of U. S. cotton have increased since November, and the U.S. share of the Dutch market this season is expected to be substantially larger than in 1958-59, when there was a considerable shift to foreign growths. Ample supplies of U. S. cotton are available at competitive prices, and exportable supplies of some major competing growths are depleted.

SPAIN ANNOUNCES SUPPORT PRICE FOR 1960-61 COTTON CROP

The Spanish National Cotton Center recently announced that support prices for seed cotton from the 1960-61 domestic crop will be the same as in the 2 preceding seasons. Prices to be paid for 1960-61 crop cotton, by types and classes, are as follows:

Types and classes	Price 1/	
	Seed cotton	Lint basis (estimated)
	U. S. cents per pound	U. S. cents per pound
U. S. Upland type		
First class	12.82	38.45
Second class	11.69	35.05
Third class	9.80	29.40
Egyptian type		
Iberian Peninsula		
First class	16.59	49.75
Second class	14.70	44.10
Third class	10.56	31.70
Canary Islands		
First class	18.10	54.30
Second class	16.21	48.65
Third class	12.07	36.20

1/ Converted to U. S. cents per pound at the rate of 60.1504 Spanish pesetas to the dollar.

Normally, over 90 percent of the cotton grown in Spain is American Upland type. The remainder is Egyptian type stapling 1-1/4 to 1-3/8 inches.

VENEZUELA HAS RECORD COTTON CROP

Venezuela's 1959-60 cotton crop is now estimated at a record 37,000 bales (500 pounds gross)--up 28 percent from last season's crop of 29,000 bales, and 48 percent above average production of 25,000 bales per year in the past 5 seasons.

The larger crop is attributed mainly to a sharp acreage increase in Portuguesa State, and to favorable growing conditions. Total area planted to cotton this season is estimated at about 65,000 acres, compared with about 50,000 acres in recent years.

Increased production will very likely reduce the need for cotton imports, estimated at about 4,000 bales in 1958-59. Venezuela has imported mostly U. S. cotton in recent years, and small quantities from Brazil, Mexico, and Greece.

A cotton gin was recently opened near Acarigua to handle the larger crop, and to encourage further expansion in cotton production. This brings the total number of gins operating in Venezuela to 7.

Cotton consumption this season may be somewhat above the 35,000 bales used in 1958-59, due to increases in import duties on cotton textiles. Considerable expansion in mill capacity is said to be planned for the 1959-60 season.

Ending stocks of cotton on July 31, 1960, may be slightly above the estimated 4,000 bales held August 1, 1959, reflecting the larger 1959-60 crop.

WEST GERMANY IMPORTING MORE COTTON IN 1959-60

Preliminary data show imports of 451,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of cotton into West Germany during the first 4 months (August-November) of the current season. This was 21 percent above the 373,000 bales imported in the same months of last season.

Quantities imported from principal sources during August-November 1959, with comparable 1958 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 125,000 bales (87,000); Sudan 54,000 (10,000); Peru 48,000 (51,000); United States 46,000 (81,000); Brazil 39,000 (16,000); Belgian Congo 31,000 (13,000); Egypt 23,000 (9,000); Turkey 19,000 (441); U.S.S.R. 19,000 (6,000); and British East Africa 14,000 (62,000). Smaller imports from the United States, compared with a year earlier, reflect the delayed movement of U. S. cotton into marketing channels during the early weeks of this season.

The United States probably will supply 30 to 35 percent of total West German cotton imports this season, compared with 14 percent in 1958-59. U. S. exports of cotton to West Germany increased each month from August through December and were running well ahead of the same months in 1958.

Total cotton imports into West Germany in 1959-60 should be considerably larger than the 1958-59 level of 1,221,000 bales. Factors pointing to larger imports this season include: (1) rising cotton consumption, (2) the need to restore stocks to more normal levels, and (3) relatively stable and closely competitive cotton prices.
(Continued on following page)

Consumption of an estimated 485,000 bales during August-November 1959 was 5 percent above consumption of 461,000 bales in the corresponding months last season. Labor shortages and relatively small mill margins may affect the consumption rate in 1959-60. However, these deterrents are expected to be more than offset by stronger domestic and export demand for textiles. Total consumption for the season will probably be moderately higher than the 1,340,000 bales used in 1958-59.

Lower and more stable prices are expected to encourage the rebuilding of cotton stocks to more normal levels this season. Beginning stocks of 320,000 bales on August 1, 1959, were down 30 percent from 460,000 bales held a year earlier.

Cotton prices on the Bremen market have been about steady to moderately lower in recent weeks following a general upward trend during November and December. The recent easing in prices is the result of a slackening in spinner demand, as most mills have covered their raw cotton requirements well into this spring.

COTTON: C.i.f. prices at Bremen, prompt shipment, U. S. and comparable foreign growths, February 17, 1960

Country	Quality	Comparable U. S. quality	Price per pound: Foreign	Price per pound: U. S.
			Cents	Cents
Nicaragua	SM 1-1/16"	SM 1-1/16"	28.50	29.35
Mexico (Laguna)	SM 1-1/32"	SM 1-1/32"	28.85	28.40
U.S.S.R.	SM 1-1/32"	SM 1-1/32"	29.70	28.40
Turkey (Adana)	M 1-1/32"	M 1-1/32"	27.60	27.10

AUSTRALIAN CATTLE SLAUGHTER DROPS AS SHEEP SLAUGHTER RISES

Australian meat production during the first 5 months of the current year (beginning July 1) was 2 percent less than a year earlier. Beef production was down 11 percent, but mutton production was up 23 percent.

As a result of a sharp drop in cattle slaughter and strong consumer and export demand prices have reached new highs. The large killings last year have also reduced numbers available for marketing. Cows are now being held from markets to rebuild herds. Pasture conditions continue good in the major cattle areas of Queensland.

Sheep numbers on farms have increased steadily and are now at record levels. Wool prices have increased during the past year and wool producing has become much more attractive. Although prices for slaughter sheep have been moderately lower than a year earlier, they have been maintained at high levels by strong U.S. demand.

The U. K. lamb market was weak for several months in the fall and early winter, but has strengthened since. Apparently many producers are selling crossbred lambs for slaughter and are building up numbers of fine wool sheep. In some of the main sheep areas, drought has encouraged marketings of sheep and lambs.

During the 5 months July-November 1959, Australia's cattle slaughter was 1,537,000 head, down 14 percent from 1,791,000 during the same period of 1958. Calf slaughter dropped from 895,000 to 851,000 head.

Lamb slaughter, at 6,043,000 head, was 13 percent above 5,673,000 a year earlier. Sheep killings rose 25 percent from 6,009,000 to 7,514,000.

Data on slaughter since November 1959 is not available. However, cattle slaughter is thought to be considerably below last year; for the rest of this year, it is expected to remain below last year's levels. To date, sheep and lamb slaughter has been running above a year ago.

MEAT: Australian production, 1954-59 and July-November 1958 and 1959

Year beginning July 1	Beef	Veal	Lamb	Mutton	Pork	Total
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1954	1,521	91	331	539	220	2,704
1955	1,587	95	326	525	211	2,744
1956	1.715	110	320	502	198	2,845
1957	1,642	131	340	604	228	2,945
1958	1,908	129	407	692	230	3,366
July-November:						
1958	819	62	197	266	86	1,430
1959	726	51	199	326	93	1,395
Percentage change:	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1958 to 1959	-11	-18	+1	+23	+8	-2

ARGENTINE SUNFLOWER SEED
ACREAGE UP SLIGHTLY

The first official estimate of the 1959-60 area sown to sunflower seed in Argentina is 3,389,224 acres, up less than 1 percent from the first estimate of the previous year.

Production, however, is expected to greatly exceed the output of 426,590 short tons last year, when floods and disease reduced the outturn to only a little more than half the size of the 1957-58 crop of 836,205 tons.

MANITOBA INQUIRY COMMISSION RECOMMENDS REMOVAL OF BAN ON COLORED MARGARINE

A Margarine Inquiry Commission in the Province of Manitoba, Canada, has recommended that the ban on factory coloring of margarine be lifted. The commission, established last October by the Manitoba Legislature, made the recommendation in mid-January after a 3-month investigation of the economic and social consequences of making margarine similar in color to butter.

Factory coloring of margarine is permitted only in British Colombia and Newfoundland. Two Provinces, Quebec and Prince Edward Island, prohibit the sale of all margarine.

VOLUME OF AUSTRALIA'S DECEMBER MEAT SHIPMENTS TO U. S. REVISED

Figures for Australian meat shipments (reported February 1, 1960, in Foreign Crops and Markets) have been revised as follows:

Ship and destination	Sailing date	Meat cargo (long tons)			
		Beef	Mutton	Lamb	Total
East Coast:					
Port Montreal	December 23	1,575	356	72	2,003
Wharanui	do. 18	588	353	170	1,111
Port Macquarie	do. 31	3,613	653	235	4,501
Pioneer Reef	do. 16	242	184	---	426
West Coast:					
Elizabeth Bakke	do. 5	126	10	1	137
Lloyd Bakke	do. 21	301	202	---	503
Oronsay	do. 30	59	---	29	79

Two ships left Australia in January with 1,089 long tons of frozen beef for the United States. The Ellen Bakke sailed January 15 with 10 long tons for Los Angeles, 95 for San Francisco, and 130 for Seattle. The Coolangata sailed January 30 with 298 long tons for Los Angeles, 434 for San Francisco, 7 for Seattle, and 115 for Chicago. Destinations reported indicate location of purchasers and are usually also the port of arrival and general market area for the meat; in some instances, meat may be diverted to other areas for sale.

DOMINION WOOL PRICES STEADY IN JANUARY

Dominion wool prices in January were steady to slightly lower. World wool prices have been unusually stable during the past 5 months as supplies have increased sufficiently to meet the higher demand.

Prices at Dominion auctions eased off somewhat in the first half of February as a result of higher stock levels in major consuming countries and a lower-quality offering at some Australian auction centers.

WOOL: Clean cost per pound, c.i.f. United Kingdom, based on sales in the Dominion and London, specified months

Quality	1959					1960
	Jan.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars	U. S. dollars
70's	.91	1.20	1.18	1.18	1.19	1.19
64's	.85	1.14	1.11	1.11	1.13	1.12
60's	.79	1.09	1.05	1.04	1.06	1.05
58's	.77	1.02	.99	.99	.99	.99
56's	.77	1/ .90	.92	.92	.95	.95
50's	.65	1/ .84	.85	.85	.89	.89
48's	.64	1/ .82	.83	.83	.86	.86
46's	.63	1/ .81	.80	.80	.84	.84

1/ London sales only.

New Zealand Wool Commission (London Agency).

ARGENTINE WOOL EXPORTS DOWN IN FIRST 4 MONTHS OF SEASON

Exports of raw wool from Argentina during the first 4 months of the 1959-60 season which began October 1 were 71.9 million pounds, actual weight, compared with 126.6 million pounds during the same period of the previous season. Shipments in 1958-59 were unusually large, however, as revisions of exchange controls helped move the big exportable surplus.

Despite increased production, the exportable surplus for the 1959-60 season at 397 million pounds, grease basis, was 115 million pounds below a year earlier. By the end of January this year, it had been reduced to 313 million pounds, of which 122 million pounds was coarse crossbred wool.

The United States, as usual, has been the leading buyer of Argentine wool this season. Purchases by the Soviet Union have been relatively small.

(See table on following page.)

WOOL: Argentine exports by destination and by grade, actual weight, October 1959 through January 1960

Destination	Fine	Fine Crossbred	Medium Crossbred	Coarse Crossbred	Criolla	Total
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	.1	1.3	.2	17.1	4.1	22.8
Belgium	.1	1.6	.2	1.5	.1	3.5
France	---	2.9	.2	2.6	---	5.7
Germany, West	.5	2.2	.5	.7	---	3.9
Italy	.9	4.5	.8	2.6	---	8.8
Netherlands	1.9	2.6	.7	2.0	---	7.2
Poland	.6	.5	---	---	---	1.1
United Kingdom	.5	2.6	.7	4.7	---	8.5
U.S.S.R.	.6	1.4	---	.1	---	2.1
Japan	.1	5.0	.5	---	---	5.6
Others	.3	1.1	.3	.9	.1	2.7
Total	5.6	25.7	3.6	32.7	4.3	71.9

Argentine Wool Federation.

U. S. VEGETABLE FIBER IMPORTS LARGER IN 1959

Vegetable fibers (except cotton) imported into the United States in 1959 totaled 256,560 long tons, valued at $53.8 million. This was 23 percent more, both in quantity and value, than the revised totals of 209,181 tons and $43.6 million for 1958. The 1959 increase reverses the general downward trend since 1951. The largest gains were in jute and henequen.

Hard fibers, the principal group, accounted for more than half the total 1959 gain in value over 1958. This group increased 8 percent in quantity and 19 percent in value, to totals of 172,677 tons and $37.4 million. Sisal (87,373 tons) accounted for more than half the hard fibers total, but henequen (37,813 tons) showed the largest increase over 1958.

Soft fibers, mostly jute, increased considerably over the exceptionally small imports in 1958. The quantity of 72,041 tons was 76 percent more than in 1958. The value, at $12.9 million, was 43 percent more. Jute increased 84 percent in quantity to 68,876 tons and 50 percent in value to $12.0 million.

Kapok imports increased over 1958 by 2,622 tons and $0.4 million to new totals of 7,142 tons and $2.4 million.

There were quantity increases in jute, henequen, istle, kapok, crin vegetal, and raffia, while decreases occurred in sisal, abaca, flax, sunn, and hemp. Valuewise, the increases were in jute, henequen, abaca, sisal, and kapok, and the decreases were in flax, istle, hemp, palm fibers, and coir.

The average unit value of sisal increased from $139 per long ton in 1958 to $163 in 1959. Henequen values were $124 and $171 in 1958 and 1959, respectively. Average values for ramie, abaca, sunn, and crin vegetal also rose, but there was a drop in the average values of istle, hemp, kapok, coir, flax, raffia, and palm fiber. The value of jute long fiber fell from $235 to $229, but jute butts remained at $81.

Asia continued to be the chief source of supply for U. S. imports of fibers--42 percent of the quantity and 50 percent of the value. Jute is the chief fiber imported from Asia, with abaca, kapok, sisal, and sunn next in importance. Pakistan and the Philippines account for 82 percent of the total quantity of fibers imported from Asia.

North American countries furnished 31 percent of the quantity and 30 percent of the value of total fibers. This compares with 16 percent and 14 percent, respectively, in 1956. Mexican henequen and Haitian sisal are the chief items from this area.

Africa ranks third in importance with 15 percent of the total. British East African sisal accounted for about 60 percent of these imports, but most of the imports of crin vegetal and raffia and a large share of the palm-type fibers also are from Africa.

Imports from South America were 11 percent of the total in 1959, compared with 19 percent in 1958, but an average of only 9 percent in 1951. Brazilian sisal and palm fibers account for the bulk of this total.

SPANISH OLIVE OIL EXPORTS RISE SHARPLY

Spanish olive oil exports are now expected to total at least 75,000 metric tons in 1959-60 (December 1-November 30), compared with 40,000 tons in 1958-59 and 18,000 tons in 1957-58. From December 1, 1959, through January 26, 1960, exports totaled 32,634 tons.

Between January 1 and February 11, 1960, requests for export licenses are reported to have totaled 40,700 tons, of which 32,000 tons were for Italy. This 40,700 tons conceivably could include some of the exports shown for December and January.

Italy was the largest buyer of Spanish olive oil in 1958-59, taking more than 11,000 metric tons. The United States purchased 8,000 tons, and lesser quantities were bought by Brazil, Portugal, and Cuba.

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC RAISES DUTY
ON POTATOES AND ONIONS

Effective January 13, 1960, the full duty will be applied all year on imports of potatoes and onions into the Dominican Republic. Prior to this date, the duty was reduced 50 percent during the periods that domestic potatoes and onions were not being harvested. The duty on potatoes is 10 pesos per 100 kg. ($4.54 per 100 lb.) and for onions, 14 pesos per 100 kg. ($6.35 per 100 lb.).

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